

From: diane st. peter [dstpeter@jfsdetroit.org]  
Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2003 11:23 AM  
.to: adoptionregs@state.gov  
Cc: adopt@listserve.ajfca.org  
Subject: extension of comments re Hague we must comment prior to 12/15!!!!!!

referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98  
Dear Sir/Madam:

Although I am in total agreement with the content and spirit of the Hague Agreement as it pertains to the welfare and ethical conduct of the adoption agents, I am concerned with the bureaucratic entanglements that the US government is putting on its smaller and medium sized agencies. We will no longer be able to have adoption be an affordable option as we are all not uniformly organized. There are a number of agencies under the CCA auspices, some under the auspices of JCHO and some only audited by the state licensing boards. The cost of having a small agency (many of whom operate with less than three workers in a dept.) undergo an additional accreditation and carry the additional load of insurances will make it prohibitive to carry on adoption practice unless it is done on a large scale which often resembles an assembly line.

Perhaps we can accept the Hague, keep the regulations intact to insure continued ethical conduct but make sure that the special interests do not make this a pork barrel issue and put a lot of dedicated professionals out of business.

We want to be able to insure the fact that birthfamilies, adoptees and adoptive parents are treated with the personal attention they deserve and that all children, domestic or international will be able to find a forever family irrespective of the financial largesse that will be a requirement if the special interests get their agenda recognized vs the children's agenda.  
Thank you for considering these points.

Diane St. Peter, ACSW  
Director of Adoption and Foster Care  
Alliance for Adoption/JFS  
24123 Greenfield Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48075  
ph 248-559-0117  
fax 248-559-5403  
dstpeter@jfsdetroit.org

---

#### JFS-Building Healthy Families

The Jewish Family Service is an agency whose purpose is to provide social and mental health services, primarily to Jewish individuals and families in the metropolitan Detroit area. Included within these services is the reception, resettlement, and integration of new Americans into the community. In order to fulfill this mission, the agency uses a variety of social work methodologies and offers a range of programs aimed at promoting the welfare of individuals and the maintenance of healthy family life.

Integrated Behavioral Health programs accredited by CARF

Member Agency:

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit  
United Way Community Services

123 Greenfield Road, Southfield, MI 48076                    248.559.1500  
80 Orchard Lake, #202, West Bloomfield, MI 48322            248.737.5055  
www.jfsdetroit.org